

Message Text

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17

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AID-05 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-01 TRSE-00 XMB-02

OPIC-03 CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 CPR-01 PPT-01

SCA-01 VO-03 SCS-03 /089 W
----- 073055

R 040656Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8949

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SOFIA 2208

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR, BEXP, BU

SUBJECT: BULGARIAN REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL COMMERCIAL OFFICES

REF: A) STATE 252212; B) SOFIA 2004

1. REGARDING BULGARIAN REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL COMMERCIAL OFFICES AND DEPARTMENT'S CONCERN EXPRESSED REFTEL A, EM-BASSY HAS NO EVIDENCE THAT US BUSINESSMEN ARE HAVING DIFFICULTIES IN BULGARIA. AS REPORTED REFTEL B, THERE ARE NO BUSINESS FACILITATION PROBLEMS PRESENTLY PENDING IN BULGARIA WHICH MERIT BEING TIED DIRECTLY TO BULGARIAN REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL TRADE OFFICES. BULGARIAN TREATMENT OF US BUSINESSMEN IS ROUTINELY APPROPRIATE AND CORDIAL. OFFICIALS OF FOREIGN TRADE ORGANIZATIONS (FTO) ARE READILY AVAILABLE PROVIDED THEY ARE IN COUNTRY, AND CONTACTS WITH END USERS MAY BE ARRANGED THROUGH FTO'S IF SITUATION WARRANTS. US BUSINESSMEN OFTEN OBTAIN TOURIST VISAS AT AIRPORT OR POINT OF ENTRY. THEY ARE BEING INFORMED OF RECENTLY ESTABLISHED REQUIREMENT MANDATORY CONVERSION IN LEVA OF MINIMUM \$10 US PER DAY, AND THERE ARE NO RE-

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PORTED EXIT PROBLEMS TO DATE. ONLY VISA PROBLEM OF

WHICH EMBASSY AWARE OF AT THIS END WAS RE-ENTRY-EXIT VISAS REQUIRED FOR US PERSONNEL RESIDING AT PROJECTS LIKE FMC EXPERIMENTAL FARM NEAR PLOVDIV; DESPITE POPOV DISCLAIMER (REFTEL A), EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS CONSIDERABLE TIME AND ENERGY WAS EXPENDED BY PROJECT DIRECTORS IN OBTAINING RE-ENTRY-EXIT VISAS FOR RESIDENT US PROJECT WORKERS. HOWEVER THERE ARE NO AMERICANS NOW RESIDENT IN PLOVDIV SINCE FMC CONTRACT HAS EXPIRED, AND IF FUTURE CASES OF THIS KIND ARISE WE THINK THEY CAN BEST BE HANDLED ON INDIVIDUAL BASIS SINCE BULGARIANS MIGHT ASK FOR RECIPROCITY SHOULD WE ASK THEM TO AGREE IN ADVANCE TO ISSUANCE MULTIPLE ENTRY VISAS FOR US BUSINESSMEN.

2. REFTEL A PARA 3 INDICATES PROBLEMS WITH US BUSINESSMEN HAVING TO SEND PASSPORTS OR TRAVEL PERSONALLY TO WASHINGTON TO OBTAIN VISAS. WE SUGGEST THAT IF SITUATION WARRANTS, A CASE COULD BE MADE FOR TRANSFORMING COMMERCIAL OFFICES INTO CONSULATES, WHICH WOULD THEN REDUCE INCONVENIENCES TO US CITIZENS CONSIDERABLY. THIS WOULD BE PARTICULARLY USEFUL FOR THOSE US CITIZENS REQUIRING VISITOR RATHER THAN TOURIST VISAS AND/OR THOSE NEEDING AFFIDAVITS OR AUTHENTICATION OF DOCUMENTS NECESSARY FOR CONDUCTING AFFAIRS IN BULGARIA.
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